

Bigfork Steering Committee Minutes

April 9, 2009,

bigforksteering.org

Community Forum

(amended)

APPROVED

In attendance: Craig Wagner, Pat Wagner, Gary Ridderhoff, Edd Blackler, Chuck Gough, John Bourquin, Leslie Budewitz, Paul Guerrant, Bruce Solberg, Cheryl Richmond, James Losee, Alex Strickland, Steve Zabaro, Don Loranger, Sally Janover, Sue Hanson

Chairman Craig Wagner called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Agenda: The motion was made to adopt the agenda as amended (m/sc Zabaro, /Gough) Passed Resort Committee to give report first as Cheryl had to leave

Minutes: The minutes for March 19, 2009 were approved. (m/sc Zabaro/Solberg) Passed.

Treasurer's Report: Steve reported our balance was the same as last month-\$1761.25 Report accepted. (m/sc Gough/Ridderhoff)

Resort Tax: Cheryl Richmond wanted to affirm that the Resort Committee was still under the auspices of the Steering Committee as at first it was an Exploration and then evolved into an Information Committee. A motion was made to authorize the Resort Committee to investigate the potential of adopting a Tourist Promotion Assessment. Motion Passed (m/sc Gough/Solberg). Cheryl has investigated the 7% Bed Tax collected by the State. It seems that several years ago the State needed money and borrowed from this promotion fund. It seems that the State Promotion Committee is no longer around, there are no employees, funds or plans to promote Montana. The money now goes into the general fund. We are basically on our own. The Resort Tax /TPA Committee is proposing we have a Community Meeting to ask the people what they want for this Community. We need to let the people who use our community help pay for the amenities we provide. Doug Averill has volunteered to let us use his foundation to cover the cost of filing 401 C4 this year. We are also connected to the CFBB and might be able to use their help. If this is successful we would need about \$1000.00 to file our own 401 C4 which is needed to keep peace with the IRS. A motion was made to authorize Cheryl and a board of Steering Committee Members to meet with the Board of the CFBB to schedule and structure a community meeting to present to the public the ideas for this assessment and get the community ideas and responses as soon as possible. (m/sc Budewitz/Blackler) Don Loranger suggested the purpose of this assessment is to make Bigfork a better community.

Community Reports: Joe Brenneman was involved with a plat application in Kalispell and was unable to make the meeting.

We really need to hear from some of our Community Services, Fire Dept, QRU, and the many Clubs in the community. We invite all of you to come to our meetings to let us know what you are involved in doing. We want to let the community know of all the

activities that are going on, how we can all help to make the Bigfork Village Community even better than it is today and yet maintain our present day atmosphere. Community Forum is the second Thursday of every month unless we announce differently!

Nominating Committee: Steve Zabaro, the chairman of the Nominating Committee stated no one had come forward to take the job of Vice President recently, so he nominated Jim Losee, a new member. He had been present at the last three meetings to qualify as a voter according to the present by-laws. A vote was taken and passed. Jim will fill the vacant seat of Elna Darrow until our next election in October.

North Lake County Planning: The committee has received over 10% of the survey's they sent out. Leslie is hoping for at least 20%. The surveys asked the landowners the questions: What do they see as the future land use for their properties, future density, and in the case of zoning the state requires setbacks, height requirements etc.

We have received mostly favorable comments. Our Summer Public meetings will be July 21st at 7:00 pm Bethany Lutheran Church and July 22nd at Brumar Estate 29048 Broken Leg Rd, Bigfork also at 7:00 pm. Their next meeting is April 17, 2009 at Saddlehorn Discovery Tower at 9:00 am.

Stormwater Committee: Sue reported at a meeting that they had received another grant from the DEQ. And funded in this grant is the ability to put in another filtration drainage system in the school area. The school district has put out bids and they expect to start the project on July 1, 2009. This could remove up to 90% of the pollutants in the stormwater runoff from the school. The committee also was passed over for a Treasure State Endowment Fund but remains near the cut off line and hopefully will receive a grant when the stimulus money is apportioned. In other words some of the stimulus monies can be used for other projects freeing up the Treasure State Endowment Fund to release money to us. We can only hope at this time.

Chairman's Report: The Bigfork Neighborhood Plan was discussed for a while. There are two items that came up for discussion, the amendment process and the criteria for Neighborhood plans and the growth policy. It was determined we can't have a perfect Neighborhood Plan. We need to get it adopted and if there is an area not working right we can always try to fix it. A motion was made for The Chairman of the BSC to write a letter to the Flathead County Commissioners telling the Commissioners our appreciation of their approval of the Bigfork Neighborhood Plan as amended. (m/sc Loranger/Guerrant) Motion Passed.

Old Business: Leslie Budewitz brought up the suggestion she made earlier this year about trying to get a Library Board formed to help the County find a suitable location for a larger library here in Bigfork. After discussion and since Kim Crowley was absent it was decided to speak with her at a later time. Leslie has mentioned some names of individuals who might be interested and if there are, please get in contact with the Chairman Craig Wagner.

New Business: Craig mentioned that it was time to take a look at the BSC by-laws and that we need to do some housekeeping on them. Since we are not meeting every week we perhaps need to change our voting requirements.

Don Loranger brought up some sad news about funding on the Flathead Basin Commission. We have come up short in money. We are \$51,000.00 short to complete studies needed to be able to present to the Canadians.

Announcements: Paul Guerrant mentioned the Pie Auction at the Swan River Hall on April 24, 2009. Entry fee is One Pie or \$5.00, with the money raised going for maintenance on the hall. It is April 24, 2009 at 7:00pm. This is a fun, fun time. Edd Blackler reported that the Episcopal Church in Ferndale is starting work on a Community Garden idea. It probably won't be completely ready this year, but work has started. Anyone who wants a garden and does not have land suitable might give the Church a call.

Meeting was adjourned 1:26

Pat Wagner, Secretary